

Questions and Answers #2

PON-09-002

1. Question – I am noticing that “Attachment N” Terms and Conditions do not seem to be available for review. Where can I locate them?

Answer – Please go the Energy Commission website at energy.ca.gov and do the following:

- 1) **Go to the blue funding tab.**
- 2) **Scroll down to the ARRA 2009**
- 3) **Click on Attachment to Solicitation and Application**
- 4) **Click on Attachment “N”**

2. Question – Do you have a date when CEC/PIER will announce the award results?

Answer – A Notice of Proposed Awards (NOPA) is expected to be released within 90 days after the application due date.

3. Question – Under section 6 (Eligible Projects), criteria #D states, “Submit applications that are consistent with the relevant federal FOA”s. Can you please clarify what is required here? Does it mean that the application submitted to PON-09-002 must also be consistent with the Relevant FOA, or that the federal application must be consistent with the federal FOAs? Can you provide some examples of situations where a project that was successfully awarded a contract under the federal FOA would fail to meet this criterion?

Answer –If an organization applied to the DOE under FOA 36, the submission to the Energy Commission should also be consistent with the requirements under FOA 36. The Energy Commission will not accept applications for projects that are not consistent with the FOA requirements. It is your organization’s responsibility to make sure that your project meets the California Energy Commission’s Public Interest Energy Research Program requirements as stated in Section 6 of the PON.

4. Question - In Attachment B (Project Summary Requirements), Section 1a states “Provided a description of barriers to be overcome and desired resolution”. What is meant by “resolution” in this case? Are we to describe the resolution to the barriers that are to be overcome, or are we to describe the overall outcome of the project itself?

Answer – The proposed project will address barriers that the research will hope to overcome. The resolution refers to the hoped for project outcomes. For instance, if you are conducting research to evaluate how to increase the energy efficiency of flat screen televisions, and the barrier is not enough data on the energy using components, the resolution could be research to analyze the energy using characteristics of each electronic component.

5. Question - We have a pre-award from the DOE under solicitation Energy Efficient Information and Communication Technology, DE-FOA-0000107. For Attachment C – Scoring Criteria we plan to use Option B. We are in discussion with the DOE and they have requested changes to our original submission. I would like to know what we should include with the Submission of PON-09-002.
- 1) Only the original application submitted to DOE
 - 2) The revised application submitted to DOE
 - 3) Combination

Answer – Please submit the revised application that was submitted and approved by DOE.

6. Question - We are preparing for funding application to PIER and ARPA-E program. Our eight page proposal was submitted to ARPA-E early last year. It was rejected without further explanation. With the release of PON-09-002, I understand that the State would consider proposals rejected by ARPA-E. Please confirm. If we modify our initial proposal with more California centric energy needs and resubmit do we still have to refer to the previously rejected application with no explanation from the Feds?

Answer – Since your application to the APRA-E program was rejected by the U.S. Department of Energy, you are not eligible to apply for PIER cost share funding under PON-09-002.

7. Question – We received an award of \$2.5 million under FOA-122 which is deployment grant from the Department of Energy to fund our waste-to-renewable-energy plant for our West Village development. Our question is whether CEC cost share funds may be used to fund deployment projects (such as, construction cost). Research –related activities are a small component of our FOA-122 project.

Answer – The Community Renewable Energy Deployment Funding Opportunity Grant (FOA-122) is one of the eligible FOAs listed in Table 1 of the PON, with a maximum

cost share of \$500,000. Since you already applied to DOE and are an awardee under FOA-122, a maximum of \$500,000 in cost share is possible provide you successfully meet the requirements of the PON.

8. Question – We have received news that the Department of Energy plans to award funds to us under FOA – 122 to fund a portion of our proposal. The Department of Energy (DOE) has proposed to award less than the amount we requested and we have not received any details to which portions of our application that the Department of Energy will fund. We had hoped to receive that information from DOE, in time to prepare our cost share application under PON-09-002 before the Tuesday, February 9th deadline. We did not receive that information. Without this information it would prove difficult to be responsive to the requirements of the PON-09-002 solicitation. May we respectfully request an extension of the deadline to allow use to obtain information from DOE.

Answer – On February 9, the deadline was extended to March 30. Due to unanticipated delays, the deadline for application submissions will be extended to April 21. If you are considered for PIER cost share funding, the Energy Commission can negotiate the final amount once you have received the final award amount from DOE.

9. Question - Can you direct me to anything that would help me understand what is meant by “Support RD&D not adequately provide by competitive or regulated energy markets?”

Answer- The Public Resources Code Section 25620.1 directs the California Energy Commission to implement research, development and demonstration activities that are not adequately provided for by competitive and regulated markets. This means research that is not funded by the private sector, utilities or anyone else.

10. Question - My Company submitted a concept paper in response to the ARPA-E electrofuels RFP. We should know in February if we are invited to submit a full proposal. Will there be additional cost share PONS?

Answer – The Energy Commission is currently not supporting cost share opportunities for APRA-E funded projects other than FOA-0000065.

11. Question – I sent in a concept paper for the ARPA-E funding opportunity, DE-FOA-000207 concerning battery technology. If my concept paper is well received, I may be encouraged to submit a formal proposal in which case I was wondering if it would OK to

substitute DE-FOA-0000207 for DE-FOA-00000665 in Table 1 of PON-09-002 which is due February 9, 2010.

Answer- No substitutes will be accepted.

12. Question -I would like to apply for the second round of ARPA-E financial assistance award DE-FOA-0000207 concerning battery development. The concept paper is due by January 15, 2010. The APRA-E grant requires a 20% cost share. I would like to use the PON-09-002 for the cost share; however, Table 1 on page 3 of the application lists the corresponding FOA cost share as DE-FOA-0000065. The DE-FOA-0000065 designation was for last year's (first round) ARPA-E – solicitation. Would it be possible to use PON-09-002 as a cost share for the ARPA-E - second round solicitation? DE-FOA-0000207?

Answer – No substitutes will be accepted.

13. Question – We have received DOE funds under the Smart Grid Investment Grant FOA-000058 to do a variety of activities. We will also be using DOE Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block grants (EECBG) fund from a Formula grant to partially fund the activities. Is it acceptable to have a portion of the non-state cost share to be from the EECBG funds? For example the funding of this one activity would look something like \$1.1 million EECBG funds, \$2 million Smart Grid Funds, \$ 1 million CEC Cost Share Grant, for a total cost of \$4.4 million. Another possibility would be to only us \$1 million of Smart Grid grant fund and \$900,000 – 1 million City matching funds if the CEC grant were to require the application to also have a cost share.

Answer – We do not have any requirements for the source of the non-state cost share. However, DOE may specify in its FOAs or its Block Grant terms and conditions what are acceptable sources of cost share. You should refer to the appropriate DOE terms and conditions. For instance, some FOAs may state that the cost share must come from non-Federal sources.

Under the DOE Smart Grid FOAs (FOA-36 and FOA-58), the maximum possible Energy Commission cost share is \$1 million or up to 10% of DOE award amount whichever is less. In your example, a \$2 million SMART Grid grant under FOA 000058, could result in a possible maximum Energy Commission cost share grant of \$200,000.

14. Question - If the EECBG funds are an allowed cost share source in addition to the Smart Grid funds, is there a minimum cost share required?

Answer – We do not have any minimum cost share requirement. However, organizations are responsible for providing the balance of the project cost not covered by the Energy Commission funds.

15. Question – Are there any plans for a new PON to cost share on the recent DOE solicitation?

Answer – Future PON cost share opportunities, if any, will be announced and posted on the Energy Commission website.

16. Question – Will PON-09-002 add DE-FOA-0000207 to Batteries for Electrical Energy Storage in Transportation?

Answer – No.

17. Question – In attachment C, section 2, Task descriptions, what is the difference between a “product” and a task and a “deliverable” of a task?

Answer – A product is a term used in a Grant Agreements and a deliverable is a term used in Contracts. An example of a product in a Grant Agreement would be “concept design report.” An example of deliverable in a Contract would be “a concept design report.”

18. Question – Is there any training available for applicants to become more familiar with reading, analyzing, and meeting requirements as defined by each grant. We would love to develop our skills to become more adept. We currently do not have anything here at our Company.

Answer – The Energy Commission does not offer training for applicants.